



JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025



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THE COURT NEWSLETTER

Strengthening the Backbone of Justice: A Transformative Week for Court Reporters



Mrs. Mahalia Currie-Medina addressing Court Reporters at their transformational week of training.

Precision is the heartbeat of justice—and Court Reporters are its guardians. As Jamaica accelerates the digital transformation of its justice system, the Judiciary took a decisive step to modernize courtroom operations through an intensive training programme designed to strengthen the nation's corps of Court Reporters.

From August 4–8, 2025, the Court Reporters' Training Programme brought together professionals from the Supreme Court and the Offices of the Services Commission under the theme:

"Enhancing the Court Reporters' Toolkit for Success."

Hosted in collaboration with the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the initiative underscored the indispensable role Court Reporters play in safeguarding the accuracy, integrity, and transparency of Jamaica's legal proceedings—especially as courts embrace real-time transcription and digital technologies.

Participants ranged from new recruits to seasoned veterans, all united by a shared mission: to uphold the spoken record with precision and professionalism. In her opening remarks, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division (CAD), emphasized this responsibility:

"You are the guardians of the spoken record, ensuring that proceedings are captured with precision, integrity, and professionalism. That is no small responsibility, and it is one we take seriously at the Judiciary of Jamaica."

Leading the programme was Mrs. Mahalia Currie-Medina, Senior CAT Reporter of the Trinidad and Tobago Judiciary, whose expertise elevated the training experience and reinforced a growing regional partnership. Her involvement signaled a shared Caribbean vision for harmonizing court reporting standards and advancing methodologies across jurisdictions.

Over five days, participants engaged in advanced stenographic techniques, real-time transcription, accuracy building, digital record-keeping, ethics, and integration of new courtroom technologies. Hands-on exercises, peer collaboration, and practical demonstrations ensured that learning was not only theoretical but deeply applied.

This initiative aligns with the Judiciary's broader modernization agenda—improving efficiency, reducing delays, and strengthening justice delivery nationwide. By investing in the continuous development of Court Reporters, the Judiciary of Jamaica is building a future-ready workforce, equipped to meet the evolving demands of technology-driven justice.

Building Excellence in Court Reporting: A Week of Training For Justice



Court Reporters of the Supreme Court and the Office of the Services Commission sitting attentively at their recent training

Judiciary's Tropical Escape 2025: A Celebration of Unity and Wellness



The Tropical Escapes Fun Day at the Puerto Seco Beach, St. Ann

Sun, sand, and solidarity defined the Judiciary of Jamaica's Annual Fun Day on Sunday, July 27, 2025, as staff, family, and friends gathered at Puerto Seco Beach in Runaway Bay, St. Ann, for a vibrant day of relaxation and camaraderie. Under the theme 'The Tropical Escape,' the event blended leisure with spirited competition, reinforcing the bonds that make the Judiciary not just an institution—but a family.

From early morning, the shoreline came alive with colorful beachwear, laughter, and anticipation as members of the Judiciary family settled in for a day dedicated to wellness and togetherness. In attendance were the Honourable Chief Justice, The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD; the Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks; Judges of the Court of Appeal; Parish Court Judges; staff of the Court Administration Division; and colleagues from courts islandwide, along with their families and friends. The diverse gathering underscored the sense of community that remains central to the Judiciary's identity.

The day's activities catered to every age group and personality. Spirited competitions such as six-a-side football, tug-o-war, sandcastle building, and the lime-and-spoon race had spectators cheering and participants pushing their limits—all in good fun. For those seeking a calmer pace, the board games corner offered dominoes and checkers, creating a space for strategy lovers and friendly rivalry in a more relaxed setting.

Children and adults alike flocked to interactive attractions including the mechanical bull, bounce-about, and sweet-treat stations. The atmosphere radiated warmth and joy as families bonded, colleagues reconnected, and new friendships formed. Importantly, the Fun Day highlighted the Judiciary's commitment not only to excellence in service but also to the holistic well-being of its people.

Beyond the festivities, the event served as a meaningful reminder that the Judiciary's strength lies in its unity. As colleagues from different parishes and departments shared meals, laughter, and memories, the occasion demonstrated that nurturing relationships is essential to fostering a resilient organization.

The 2025 Tropical Escape will be remembered not only for its beautiful setting and engaging activities, but also for the powerful sense of belonging it cultivated across the Judiciary. By taking time to recharge and reconnect, the institution continues to reinforce its dedication to promoting a healthy, motivated workforce—one Judiciary, one family.

Photo Highlights of the Judiciary of Jamaica's Tropical Escapes 2025



Members of the Judiciary and CAD family captured enjoying the festivities of the day.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

-Henry Ford

JUDICIARY OF JAMAICA CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS VISION AT STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT RETREAT WEEK 2025



Chief Justice, Hon Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD sharing greetings at the opening ceremony of the Strategic Management Retreat 2025

The Judiciary of Jamaica's annual Strategic Management Retreat, held from August 18–22, 2025 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, stood as a defining moment of reflection, renewal, and forward planning. Under the theme “Justice Reimagined: Building Capacity, Refining Systems, Transforming the Judiciary,” the retreat provided leaders across all levels of the institution with a critical space to evaluate past achievements, confront emerging challenges, and chart a unified path for the future.

Anchored in the Judiciary's Strategic Business Plan, “Benchmarking the Future: Consolidating Excellence,” this year's retreat focused on accelerating institutional transformation and strengthening public trust in the justice system. In his opening remarks, the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD emphasized that discipline, accountability, and innovation remain non-negotiable principles in the pursuit of justice. He reminded participants that retreats of this nature serve as essential checkpoints—opportunities to step back, assess performance, and recommit to the standards that define an effective modern judiciary.

Reflecting on the progress made since the 2024 launch of the Strategic Business Plan, the Chief Justice, alongside Senior Director Miss Marsha Grant, highlighted key accomplishments. These included advancements in digital case management, improved court infrastructure, streamlined administrative processes, expanded training opportunities, and significant strides in data-driven decision-making. Their presentations also provided clear guidance on the milestones ahead, outlining goals for 2026 and beyond.

The retreat featured an impressive roster of presenters from a range of partner institutions, including the Quality Systems Solutions & Initiatives (QSSI), the Ministry of Justice, Sagicor Group Jamaica, the Management



Senior Puisne Judge, The Hon. Mrs. Justice Lorna Shelly-Williams moderating the first day of the retreat.

Institute for National Development (MIND), the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre, the Jamaica Civil Service Association, and the Jamaica Archives and Records Department. These sessions offered valuable insights on organisational resilience, leadership development, crisis readiness, and the importance of institutional memory.

JUDICIARY OF JAMAICA CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS VISION AT STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT RETREAT WEEK 2025

Judges of the Court of Appeal, Puisne Judges, Parish Court Judges, Directors, Managers, and Administrative Leaders participated actively in group discussions and strategic planning sessions. The conversations were honest, engaging, and solution-focused, reflecting a shared dedication to strengthening performance standards, resource allocation, and service delivery. Participants also emphasized the importance of mentorship, staff development, and emotional well-being as essential components of achieving organisational excellence.

A notable point of discussion centered on the balance between natural intelligence and technological advancement. As the Judiciary continues embracing digitization and innovation, presenters stressed the importance of maintaining human judgment, empathy, and ethical reasoning at the core of judicial processes. The 2025 Strategic Management Retreat was far more than an administrative exercise, it was a reaffirmation of purpose. It underscored the Judiciary's commitment to continuous improvement, operational transparency, and national development. By bringing together leaders from across the justice system, the retreat strengthened the institution's collective vision of building a Judiciary that is modern, agile, and grounded in integrity.

As Jamaica moves into another year of transformation, the lessons and strategies shaped at the retreat will serve as a guiding framework ensuring that justice continues to be delivered with fairness, efficiency, and unwavering excellence.



Mr. Jermaine Johnson kicking off the week's proceedings with a motivational workshop



Mr. Jermaine Johnson and heads of the Jamaican Judiciary and the CAD posing for a photo after his workshop

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STRATEGIC RETREAT 2025



Harambee: Judiciary Celebrates Excellence at Awards Banquet

Unity and excellence took center stage on August 21, 2025, as the Judiciary of Jamaica hosted its Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Guided by the theme “Harambee”—a Swahili term meaning “Let us pull together”—the evening honored outstanding contributions to justice in an atmosphere of African-inspired elegance and royal pride.

Members of the Bench, Bar, and staff of the Courts and the Court Administration Division gathered to honour individuals for their years of dedicated service to the administration of justice, strategic and innovative contributions. Some of which were chosen by YOU and others through a series of reviews of the very capable selection panel, the winners of the night truly embodied the essence of excellence in their respective strengths. As the evening was not solely about titivating and fanciful dress but more so, a reflection of the Judiciary’s continued commitment to unity, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence across all levels.

The banquet brought together strategic leaders, judges, and staff from across the Judiciary for an evening of celebration and reflection. In his keynote address, Chief Justice Bryan Sykes commended honorees for their unwavering commitment to national development through the justice system, noting:

“All of you have contributed and continue to contribute to the improvements that we have been making over the last few years.”



Mr. Zacca captured during his guest speaker remarks.

Greetings were also shared by Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, and Hon. Justice David Fraser, representing the President of the Court of Appeal. Guest speaker Mr. Christopher Zacca, CD, JP, President & CEO of Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited, applauded the Judiciary’s role as a cornerstone of governance. Though not a member of the Judiciary, shared his unique understanding as he applauded the works of the Judiciary as a crucial arm of government.

Hosted by Miss Simone Clarke and Mr. Owen “Ity” Ellis, the evening featured vibrant entertainment and culminated in the presentation of prestigious awards recognizing excellence across the Judiciary.

Award Recipients

Labour Day Awards

- Highest Volunteer Turnout Per Capita:
 - Winner: St. Catherine Parish Court (over 60 volunteers)
- Beautification Project Awards:
 - 1st Place: St. Catherine Parish Court
 - 2nd Place: Manchester Family Court
 - 3rd Place: St. James Parish Court & St. Elizabeth Parish Court

Harambee: Judiciary Celebrates Excellence at Awards Banquet

Outstanding Service Excellence Ambassador Award

(18 individuals recognized for exceptional service)

- Dwyane Davis – Supreme Court
- Darrion Kelly – St. Catherine Parish Court
- Jody Fisher Bell – Supreme Court Criminal Registry
- Colin Lindo – Court Administration Division
- Francine Patterson – St. Thomas Parish Court
- Matthew McAnuff Jones – Special Coroner's Court
- Tajay Smith – Trelawny Family Court
- Teneisha Murray – St. James Parish Court
- Donna Brown Lawrence – Westmoreland Parish Court
- Anna Leigh Johnson – Hanover Family Court
- Loyatia Henry – Supreme Court Estate Division
- Jermaine Richards – Trelawny Parish Court
- Colleen Bromfield – Supreme Court Office Services Department
- Phillip Wilson – St. Elizabeth Parish Court
- Marlon Rattray – Clarendon Parish Court
- Kimoy Campbell – Manchester Parish Court
- Marsha Berry – Portland Parish Court
- Kashwayne Buchanan – Western Regional Registry – Supreme Court
- Karen Campbell Ellis – St. James Family Court
- Millicent Gordon Swaby – Clarendon Parish Court



Darrion Kelly, the service excellence ambassador for the St. Catherine Parish Court, accepting his award from Mr. Richard Rowe, Consumer Affairs Commissioner.



Karen Campbell Ellis, St. James Family Court being presented with her Service Excellence award by Elizabeth Smith, JCDC.

Harambee: Judiciary Celebrates Excellence at Awards Banquet

Operational Support Excellence Awards

Awardees:

- Hewan Campbell – Office Attendant Supervisor, Supreme Court
- Kenneth Reid – Watchman, Western Regional Family Court
- Ashalene Bryan – Court Orderly, St. Catherine Parish Court

Award for Resilience

Recipient:

Court Administration Division – Accepted by Mrs. Cameron Anglin, Director/CEO For demonstrating unwavering strength and leadership after displacement caused by Hurricane Beryl.

Innovation Award for Excellence

Awardee:

Her Honour Mrs. Janelle Nelson-Gayle, Judge, St. Catherine Parish Court For spearheading the structured traffic warrant register system and redesigning the Civil Summons process.

Emerging Leader Award

Awardee:

Her Honour Mrs. Janelle Nelson-Gayle, Judge, St. Catherine Parish Court Recognized for rising leadership, initiative, and transformational impact.

Most Outstanding Court Operations Manager

Awardees:

- Cornwall: Mrs. Sophia Parchment Cuff – Court Operations Manager, St. Elizabeth Parish Court
- Middlesex: Mrs. Kaddian Clare Major – Court Operations Manager, St. Catherine Parish Court

Chief Executive Officer Award for Outstanding Service Delivery

Awardee:

Ms. Silma Ellis – Court Operations Manager, Trelawny Family Court Honoured for exemplary, unmatched service delivery.



Ms Ashalene Bryan, Court Orderly of the St. Catherine Parish Court being presented with her award by Mrs. Gaye-Ann Lewis, Human Resource Officer, Supreme Court.

Harambee: Judiciary Celebrates Excellence at Awards Banquet

Distinguished Judge Awards

- Court of Appeal: Hon. Justice David Fraser
- Supreme Court: Justice Lorna Shelly Williams, Senior Puisne Judge
- Parish Court: Her Honour Ms. Nicole Kellier

Top Performing Parish Courts

- 1st Place: St. Mary Parish Court
- 2nd Place: St. Catherine Parish Court
- 3rd Place: Portland Parish Court



Second place award for the Top Performing Parish Court being presented to the St. Catherine Parish Court.

Top Performing Supreme Court Divisions

- 1st Place: Family Division – Registrar Miss Norma Fearon
- 2nd Place: Commercial Division – Registrar Ms. Comnore Benneth
- 3rd Place: High Court Division of the Gun Court – Mr. Kevin Moore

Chief Justice Award for Excellence

- Winner: Her Honour Mrs. Yvette Wentworth-Miller, Senior Parish Court Judge, St. Catherine Parish Court

Nominees:

- Mrs. Devene Gordon Phoenix, Court Administrator, Trelawny Parish Court
- Dr. Eleanor Moodie White, Senior Social Worker, Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court

A special token of appreciation was also presented to Chief Justice Bryan Sykes for his visionary leadership and commitment to the Judiciary's transformation.

The evening was more than an awards ceremony—it was a powerful reminder that progress is built on collaboration, dedication, and shared purpose. As the Judiciary moves forward, the spirit of Harambee will continue to guide its pursuit of excellence.

Photo Highlights of Harambee, Let us pull together



Judges of the Parish Courts enjoying an evening of excellence.



Chief Justice being presented with an award for Excellence



Chief Justice and his wife posing with the UWI Panoridim Steel band led by their daughter.



Mrs. Sophia Cuff-Parchement strutting to collect her award for being an Emerging Leader in the county of Cornwall.



Mr. Hewan Campbell of the Supreme Court being presented with an award for Operational Support Excellence.

Photo Highlights of Harambee, Let us pull together



The Hon Mr. Justice David Fraser, Mr. Chris Zacca, Chief Justice and his wife, Dr. Crawford-Sykes sharing a light moment during awards ceremony.



Chief Justice Award for Excellence being presented to Her Honour Mrs. Yvette Wentworth-Miller.



Top Performing Parish Court Award being presented to the St. Mary Parish Court



The Emerging Leader award for the county of Middlesex being presented to Mrs. Kaddian Clare-Major, Court Operations Manager, St. Catherine Parish Court.



The Hon Mr. Justice David Fraser being cheered on as he collects his prize for the Distinguished Judge for the Court of Appeal.



Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin and her team collecting their award for Resilience.

Elections and the Judiciary

During Jamaica's electoral cycles, the Judiciary of Jamaica plays a pivotal yet often understated role in safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the democratic process. While public attention is largely focused on political campaigns and candidates, the Judiciary works diligently behind the scenes to ensure that every procedure, from the casting of ballots to the resolution of disputes, are conducted with transparency, fairness, and strict adherence to the rule of law.



In the months leading up to the election, the Judiciary initiated comprehensive preparations to ensure that all courts were equipped to handle electoral matters efficiently and impartially. These preparations included judicial briefings, procedural reviews, contingency planning, and refresher training sessions on electoral laws. Special emphasis was placed on the management of magisterial recounts, a critical safeguard that allows ballots to be re-examined under judicial supervision whenever the margin of victory is in question. This mechanism plays an essential role in upholding public trust by verifying the accuracy of vote tallies.

Senior Puisne Judge Lorna Shelly-Williams, speaking in an interview with the Jamaica Observer on August 28, 2025, noted that while the number of recounts was unknown ahead of time, the Judiciary ensured that all Parish Court Judges were fully briefed on the procedures and allocations that might arise. She emphasized that, "Before the first person has cast a vote, we are prepared to deal with all issues related to it." Her comments reflected the Judiciary's proactive approach and its commitment to readiness at every level.

Judge Shelly-Williams further highlighted that preparations also extended to Supreme Court level matters, including election petitions and constitutional challenges that may arise following the declaration of results. By ensuring that both the Parish Courts and the Supreme Court were fully equipped to respond to any electoral issue, the Judiciary demonstrated a comprehensive and systematic approach to election oversight.

On Election Day, the Judiciary's role was not merely administrative, it served as an essential guardian of Jamaica's democratic values. Judges and court staff facilitated recounts where necessary, processed urgent applications, and ensured that all legal matters arising from the election were addressed promptly and fairly. This quiet but powerful contribution reinforced the Judiciary's longstanding role as a stabilizing force during national transitions.

For many Jamaicans, the election process may appear to hinge solely on political actors. However, the Judiciary's foundational involvement ensures that every vote is respected, every challenge is heard, and every outcome reflects the true will of the people. Behind every peaceful transition lies an unwavering commitment to impartiality, integrity, and lawful oversight.

The Judiciary's work during the 2025 General Election stands as a testament to its dedication to public trust and democratic resilience. Through careful planning, transparent procedures, and the steadfast professionalism of its judges and staff, the Judiciary upheld its responsibility as a neutral arbiter, protecting not only the electoral process but the confidence of the nation.

Swearing In for the Michaelmas Term

On September 1, 2025, the Judiciary of Jamaica formally inducted ten judicial officers at the swearing-in ceremony at King's House in Kingston. Presided by Sir Patrick Allen, Governor-General of Jamaica, the officers were formally inducted to serve across various courts, reflecting the ongoing need to ensure the courts are fully staffed and capable of delivering timely justice across the island. Among those sworn in were:

- The Hon. Mrs Justice Georgianna Fraser, appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal, effective 22 September.
- The Hon. Mrs Justice Lorna Shelly-Williams, appointed Acting Judge of the Court of Appeal for the period 22 September to 19 December.
- Miss Stephany Orr and Mrs Sharon Millwood Moore, appointed Puisne Judges, effective 16 September.
- Miss Opal Smith, appointed Puisne Judge, effective 22 September.
- Mrs Tracey Ann Johnson and Mrs Kamar Anderson, appointed Acting Puisne Judges (Johnson until further orders, Anderson until 19 December).
- Mrs Luciana Jackson, appointed Master-in-Chambers, effective 16 September, along with acting Masters-in-Chambers.

These appointments demonstrate the Judiciary's commitment to continuity, readiness, and access to justice, ensuring that all courts are adequately staffed for the coming term.

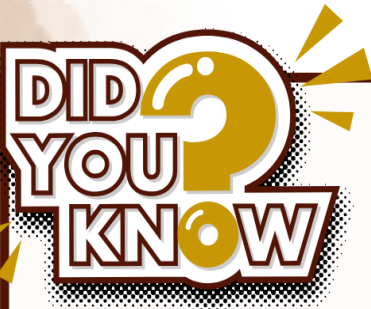
Notably, all appointed judges are women, which guided a motif of the first female President of the Court of Appeal's remarks as she addressed the importance emerging leaders among women. She also advocated for the newly appointed and colleagues present to establish 'care ethics' as part of their judicial wellness; this means creating a supportive work environment that fosters their well-being as interdependent individuals, not isolated legal functionaries. Similarly, Chief Justice Sykes noted in his address, this cohort represents both renewal and responsibility. "The induction of these officers is a reaffirmation of our commitment to excellence. It signals to the public that the administration of justice is in capable hands and continues to move in the right direction," he said. He also highlighted the Judiciary's recent gains in efficiency, including the reduction of case-resolution time frames for complex matters and the Court of Appeal's achievement of clearing more cases than were filed for three consecutive years.

The swearing-in ceremony therefore marked not only the start of the Michaelmas Term but a continued strengthening of the nation's justice system. With ten women stepping into roles that shape the administration of justice across Jamaica, the Judiciary enters the new term with renewed purpose, fortified leadership and a clear commitment to serving the people with fairness, and integrity.

Swearing In for the Michaelmas Term



Chief Justice, Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD (left, seated), Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (centre, seated); and President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop (right, seated), share a photo with 10 members of the judiciary who were sworn in.



The Michaelmas Term, which spans September to December, takes its name from the Feast of St. Michael and dates back to English legal tradition. In Jamaica, it remains an important marker in the judicial calendar, signalling the beginning and often busiest phase of the legal year.

Assize Church Services 2025



Chief Justice, Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes greeting Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands at the Assize Church Service in Kingston

Each year, the Judiciary of Jamaica marks the opening of the Michaelmas Term with its Annual Assize Church Services, a tradition steeped in history and symbolism. These church services offer a moment of reflection, renewal, and communal prayer before the courts reconvene for the Michaelmas term. On Sunday, 7 September, and Sunday, September 14, the services were held at Meadowbrook United Church in St Andrew, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Montego Bay, St. James, under the theme: “Rooted in Faith, Justice-Driven, Impacting the Future.” The occasion brought together judges, lawyers, court staff, and invited guests in worship and contemplation of the judiciary’s broader responsibilities.

Chief Justice Bryan Sykes addressed the congregation on both occasions, emphasizing the intersection of faith, morality, and justice. He high-

lighted the role of public participation, jury service, and innovation in the courts as essential to maintaining fairness, efficiency, and accessibility in the judicial system.

Subsequently, Tenneshia T. Watkins LL.B. (Hons), LLM, President of the Jamaican Bar Association affirmed that, “we gather not only to mark the commencement of the legal term but to reaffirm our collective commitment to justice, integrity, and service to the people of Jamaica. In this sanctuary, we pause to seek divine guidance for the decisions we will make, the lives we will touch, and the legacy we continue to build.”



Judges gathered in praise and worship at the Assize Church Service.

The Assize Church Service reaffirms the ethical and social responsibilities of judges, lawyers, and all members of the legal fraternity. Provides an opportunity to reflect on the administration of justice and the rule of law, connecting legal principles to broader societal values. It symbolizes the Judiciary’s commitment to transparency, fairness, and public trust, reminding the community that justice is both a civic duty and a moral endeavor. By opening the Michaelmas Term in prayer and reflection, the Judiciary underscores the values

that guide its work: impartiality, integrity, and service to the nation. As the courts embark on the new term, the lessons and reflections of the Assize Church Service continue to resonate, inspiring all judicial officers and legal professionals to pursue justice diligently, fairly, and faithfully as stewards of Justice.

Photo Highlights Assize Church Services 2025



Mrs. Andrea Montaque-Williston, Court Operations Manager, Hanover Parish Court captured among the congregation at the Assize Church Service in Kingston.



Her Honour Mrs. Fairclough-Hylton, Senior Judge of the St. James Parish Court along with her fellow judicial officers in worship at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Montego Bay.



Chief Justice, Hon Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, (centre) The Very Reverend Andrew Reid, Judicial Officers, Members of the Bar, Court Staff and members of the Court Administration Division paused for a photo after the Assize Church Service in Montego Bay



Chief Justice, Hon Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD paused for a photo with judges of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Parish Court after the Assize Church Service in Kingston

Judiciary Deepens Professional Development at Learning and Growth Session



Panelists of presenters from the Ministry of Justice presenting to the cohort of Judicial Officers

Judicial officers from across the island gathered at Ocean Coral Spring in Trelawny from September 19–21, 2025, for a three-day Learning and Growth Session designed to strengthen professional practice within the courts. Hosted by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with the Judicial Education Institute of Jamaica (JEIJ), the Court Administration Division, and the Social Justice Division, the event created a dedicated space for reflection, learning, and skill building under the theme **“Partnering to Transform Justice: Advancing Fairness, Efficiency, and Public Trust.”**

The first day focused on the sub-theme **“Rehabilitation Over Retribution: Giving Children a Second Chance.”** Judicial officers participated in discussions on child diversion, reviewed

case experiences, and examined the legislative considerations that guide their work with children in conflict with the law. These sessions encouraged a deeper understanding of rehabilitative principles and how they can be more effectively applied within the justice system.

The weekend advanced even further into professional development with sessions under the sub-theme **“From Vulnerability to Confidence: Building Trust in Justice.”** Officers explored trauma-informed judicial approaches, engaged with practical case scenarios, and considered tools that can strengthen the judiciary’s delivery of fair and empathetic justice. Presentations by The Honourable Delroy Chuck KC, MP, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice of Jamaica, powerfully underscored the national commitment to a judiciary grounded in professionalism, sensitivity, and public trust. By the close of the weekend, participants left with renewed clarity, strengthened insight, and a shared determination to support Jamaica’s justice transformation agenda—affirming that continuous learning remains essential to an effective and respected judiciary.



Judicial Officers captured attentively grasping the concepts being shared during their training session

Career in the Courts featuring ICT's Senior Programmer; Malik Ellis

The Judiciary of Jamaica has been highlighted as one of the most technologically advanced judiciaries in the region with the integration of accessible software and artificial intelligence. This is a result of the tenacious work of the Information, Communication and Technology Unit of the Court Administration Division. This edition will feature an individual who has been vital in the Judiciary's Technological Advancements as we venture towards being fully digitized.

Q&A with Malik!

Q: Who is a Senior Programmer within the Judiciary, and what role do you play in supporting court operations?

A: A Senior Programmer in the Judiciary is responsible for designing, developing, and maintaining digital solutions that replace or enhance manual processes across the courts. The role involves engaging with stakeholders to understand operational challenges and translating those needs into functional, efficient software systems. Some of the key applications I developed and supported include the **Library Management System**, Judicial Case Management System, **Computer Inventory System**, and **Stock Management System**, among others. These solutions improve efficiency, accuracy, and overall service delivery in the justice system.

Q: What does a typical workday look like for you?

A: A typical workday involves a mix of system monitoring, development, and problem-solving. I ensure that all applications remain functional and accessible, address bugs or issues that arise, and advance ongoing development projects. Because the Judiciary's environment is dynamic, the role requires flexibility; balancing new feature development, urgent fixes, user support, and project deadlines.

Q: What steps do you take to ensure that the systems, applications, and digital tools used by the courts run smoothly and efficiently?

A: I maintain continuous communication with system users to gather feedback and identify gaps or pain points. Regular system monitoring, routine updates, proactive bug fixes, and timely enhancements also ensure reliability. Additionally, incorporating user suggestions helps refine systems and improves adoption and overall efficiency.

Q: What qualifications, technical skills or programming competencies are most important for succeeding in this role?

A: I hold a Bachelor of Science in Computing. Technical skills essential for this role include proficiency in programming languages such as PHP and JavaScript, strong understanding of databases, version control (like Git), web technologies, and API integrations. Just as important are problem-solving abilities, analytical thinking, and the capacity to learn new technologies quickly.

Q: How did your education or previous professional experience prepare you for becoming a Senior Programmer?

A: My education provided a strong foundation in software development, project management, and teamwork, allowing me to quickly grasp the technologies used within the Judiciary. Additionally, my experience working in the Supreme Court Civil Department gave me firsthand exposure to how the court operates—how cases are filed, processed, managed, and ultimately disposed of. This practical understanding of court workflows helps me relate to users, better understand their challenges, and design solutions that directly address their needs. It has enabled me to create and refine systems that genuinely improve the efficiency and accuracy of their daily tasks.



**FACT
ABOUT
MALIK**



He is Senior Programmer from the Information, Communication and Technology Unit, Court Administration Division.

Career in the Courts featuring ICT's Senior Programmer; Malik Ellis

FACT ABOUT MALIK

He is the captain of the Judiciary's football team!
1 JOJ



Q: How do you collaborate with judges, court staff, ICT teams and other stakeholders to develop or maintain judicial systems?

A: We use communication tools like Microsoft Teams to coordinate tasks and gather feedback, and Microsoft Project to track milestones and manage the project lifecycle. On the development side, tools such as GitHub and Visual Studio ensure effective collaboration, version control, and code quality. Regular meetings, demonstrations, and user training sessions help align expectations and ensure systems meet operational needs.

Q: What challenges have you encountered with system maintenance, integration, cybersecurity or user support, and how have you addressed them?

A: Challenges often arise around integrating older systems with newer platforms, ensuring data security, and supporting users with varying levels of technical familiarity. To address these, we follow best practices for secure development, conduct thorough testing, and implement robust authentication and access controls. We also provide on-

going user training and documentation, which helps reduce errors and empowers staff. When technical issues occur, we troubleshoot quickly and apply long-term fixes to prevent recurrence.

Q: What do you find most fulfilling or rewarding about working as a Senior Programmer in the Judiciary?

A: The most fulfilling aspect is knowing that the solutions I help build directly contribute to a more efficient justice system. Seeing from simple duties such as programming a pass so persons may traverse through a gate to assisting in the role of the judicial case management system.

Q: What opportunities for growth, specialization or advancement exist within the ICT field in the justice sector?

A: There are many opportunities to grow, especially with emerging technologies such as automation, cloud solutions, cybersecurity, data analytics, and digital transformation initiatives. The justice sector constantly evolves, allowing programmers to specialize in areas like system architecture, IT security, software project management, or enterprise system integration.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who is interested in becoming a Senior Programmer?

A: Build strong communication skills, because you will interact with people who may not have technical backgrounds. Develop good teamwork habits and cultivate time-management and problem-solving abilities. Most importantly, stay curious—technology changes quickly, and continuous learning is essential to thrive in this field.



Mr. Ellis posing with his team mates at the beginning of their match in the Jamaica Civil Service Association' Sports Competition 2025.

Photo Highlights of the Opening of Home Circuit



The above photos include the parade of the JCF marching band being inspected by the The Hon. Mr. Justice Leighton Pusey, CD, Puisne Judge.

Photo Highlights of Wheelchairs being presented to the Supreme Court



The Chief Justice, The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, and the Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, Mrs. Cameron-Anglin, were presented with several wheelchairs to facilitate accessibility at the Supreme Court, Jamaica by Mrs. Jemelina Davis, Chairman of the Wheelchair Committee, Rotary Club. A short courtesy call and presentation of the wheelchairs were done by the Chief Justice's Chambers, along with the President of the Rotary Club of Kingston Sonya Nicholson, Members of the Rotary Club of Kingston, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Marie Powell, Khadine Carty; Mr. Scott Ford and Ms. Karla Granada, Wheelchair Foundation.



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